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find time to absorb, but not too minute or inclusive in its revelation of life and recital of work to meet the wishes of the numerous company of those whose ideals and methods in social service have been inspired and guided by Octavia Hill. The early trials of the family in which the mother's strength and wisdom impressed upon all the children that "if a thing is right, it must be done," gave the keynote of consecration; and the need to earn for self-support gave reality to the sympathy and fraternal feeling which dignified all later work for the poor and ignorant. Canon Barnett's testimony that Miss Hill "brought the force of religion into the cause of wisdom and gave emotion to justice" is well justified by this volume of intimate letters on public and private activity. High gifts of social organization, commanding powers of discipline in dealing with ignorance and wrong-doing, ready response to the commands of human progress were combined in this rare life with inexhaustible patience in personal ministry, abounding faith in human quality if rightly approached, exquisite refinement of feeling, broad culture, deep religious devotion, and self-forgetting daily service. Octavia Hill's name is permanently fixed to what is called "the housing reform." But most methods in this line work from the outside in through "model tenements." Her methods worked from the inside out, from improved people and homes to better houses; and this biography is a treasury of inspiration and guidance to those who believe that we must work to make better folks while we try to make better social conditions. Its clearness of sequence, its delicacy of treatment, and its balance of light and shade are testimonials to the high competence and character of its author and compiler. The book will greatly help in fulfilling the wish of Octavia Hill to leave behind her "greater ideals, greater hope, and patience to realize both."

ANNA GARLIN SPENCER.

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MORISON, SAMUEL E. *The Life and Letters of Harrison Gray Otis, 1765-1848.* 2 vols. Pp. xxiii, 663. Price, \$6.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1913.

Dr. Morison's account of *The Life and Letters of Harrison Gray Otis* is very readable, and throws many illuminating sidelights upon American history during the first three decades of the constitutional period. The picture of social life in Philadelphia from 1797 to 1801, of the political intrigues at the end of the Federalist period, and of the beginning of the control of the national government by the Republican leaders is especially entertaining and instructive.

Massachusetts' attitude towards the federal government at the time of the attempted enforcement of the embargo act is well presented in volume two, which also contains a valuable account of the Hartford convention, of which Otis had intimate knowledge.

The work closes with an account of Otis' policy as mayor of Boston and an estimate of Otis' career. As the author states "Otis, in truth, belonged more to the eighteenth than to the nineteenth century. He had no ambition for territorial expansion or world power for his country. Since the manifest destiny of the United States has been otherwise, we may say that it was well

that Otis and his friends were swept out of national power at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The personality of Harrison Gray Otis was singularly well-rounded and attractive. In him were blended all the qualities that make up the man beloved by men. Had Otis been inclined to seek from Providence one more boon, it would have been that his countrymen should take him at his word, when he told them that the Hartford convention was intended to save, not to destroy, the Union of the States."

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REEDER, ROBERT P. *The Validity of Rate Regulations, State and Federal.* Pp. xv, 440. Price, \$5.00. Philadelphia: T. and J. W. Johnson Company, 1914.

Public service corporations and their rates now form a central problem in our national and state legislation. In the volume before us we have one of the most valuable treatises upon the constitutional aspects of government regulation that have been published in this country. The author has made an exhaustive study of the cases, of textbooks and legal periodicals, and he has gone far afield into political science, sociology and economics for pertinent material. He has apparently given deep thought to the problems of constitutional law and has been able to offer solutions which go to the very heart of some of the most difficult problems. By the excellent arrangement of his material and by the use of a diction of striking simplicity he has stated the results of his labors in the clearest possible manner.

The book is divided into nine chapters, taking up the commerce clause, the distribution of governmental powers among the three departments of government, the due process clauses of the fifth and fourteenth amendments, the equal protection provision, the requirement of just compensation, the impairment of contract clause, preferences to ports, and limitations upon the federal judicial power. Special attention is given to such questions as whether separate intrastate transportation before or after interstate transportation comes within the commerce clause, whether the granting to a public utilities commission of a wide discretion in the establishment of rates is a delegation of legislative power which is forbidden by the constitution and whether in rate cases a public service company is entitled to claim that its property is worth more than the cost of reproducing that property at the present time, less an allowance for the depreciation which has actually taken place. In each case the discussion is an important contribution to constitutional and regulative law.

But the most noteworthy feature of the book is to be found in the two chapters which are devoted to the due process clause of the Constitution. The court "practically regards this provision as authorizing the court to impose upon governmental actions such tests of fitness as the court itself may choose to impose," (p. 130); and the author demonstrates that this position "does not rest upon either history, sound logic or a literal interpretation of the terms of the provision" (p. 130), that the restraint is indefinite and the decisions under it are inconsistent, that for the sake of consistent decisions in the future the position of the court must be reconsidered, and that the court should hold that